

Remarks

Claims 21-41 were pending and examined in the Office Action that was mailed June 12, 2006. Claims 21-41 are rejected. Claims 22, 26-27, 29, 40 and 41 have been amended. Claims 33-39 have been cancelled. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments. Each of the objections and rejections raised in the Office Action is addressed individually below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Examiner rejected claims 40 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and stated that the limitation "an input, a plurality of outputs" had insufficient antecedent basis. Applicant called Examiner to clarify this rejection. Examiner explained by telephone that the limitations "an input" and "a plurality of outputs" did not fail for antecedent basis, but rather the Examiner felt that these limitations were unclear. Examiner proposed amendments that he felt clarified the invention claimed. To further prosecution, Applicant has amended independent claim 40 and 41 according to the Examiner's suggestions, to further clarify the invention which the Applicant claims.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the indefiniteness rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

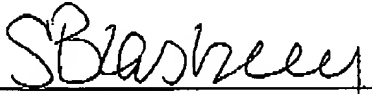
Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 & 103

Claims 21-39 have been rejected under either 35 U.S.C. § 102 or 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 21-32 now depend from claims 40 and 41. Claims 40 and 41 appear to be free of prior art. Claims 33-39 have been cancelled. In light of the claim amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

Based on the arguments presented above, it is submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his thoughtful comments and careful consideration of the case and requests favorable action. Please charge any fees as may be required, or credit any overpayments, to our Deposit Account No. 03-1721.

Respectfully submitted,


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